A lean regular cadre and an enhanced support cadre have been identified as the ideal long term solution to lower the age profile in the Army. The necessary ratio between regular and support cadres and measures to make the support cadre more attractive, have been recommended to be worked out pragmatically.

Since the recommendations encompass a wide spectrum service related issues, no specific time-frame for implementation can be indicated.

Steps to promote employment opportunities for ex-servicemen

1058. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Resettlement is going to provide training to ex-servicemen to enhance the employment options in Corporate Sector for retiring and Short Service Commissioned Officers;

(b) if so, the duration of the training course; and

(c) by when it is likely to commence and who will bear the expenses in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Courses already exist which can assist officers directly or indirectly to gain employment in Corporate Sector. Some of these courses pertain to:

(i) Financial Management

(ii) Logistic Management

(iii) Material Management

(iv) Industrial Relations and Personnel Management

(v) Labour Law & Tax Law

(vi) PG Diploma in General Administration

(vii) Facility Management

(viii) Export Management

(ix) Management of Agro based Industry.

(x) Course related to Tourism, Travel & Hotel Industry.

(xi) Information Technology related course

(xii) Security Service related courses including e-Security.

(xiii) Management & Business Administration (Distance Learning, Programme only.

(b) These courses are organized in two categories-contact (full time) and Distance Learning Programme (DLP. Contact (full time) courses are restricted to three months period while DLP courses are upto three years duration.

(c) For contact programmes officers pay 40% of the total fee while 60% is paid by Government. For DLP courses, officers have to pay the full fee.

Sub-standard supplies by Ordnance factories

1059. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recent report of the CAG the Ordnance factories are supplying sub-standard ammunition to armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct a thorough inquiry into the working of Ordnance depots and Ordnance factories through an independent Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Ordnance Factories supply the ammunition after due inspection by the designated Quality Assurance Agencies. The recent CAG report has made mention of a particular tank ammunition, a certain quantity of which has been segregated by the Army for rectifiction/replacement.